>ugh Quarterly Performance Review tings. The Ministry gives policy directs io the Corporation from time to ; to improve its functioning. The king of the Co-poration is a'so dis-ed in the ine™ings of Consultative imittee of Parliament attached to the istry. The last meeting of '.he Consul-*re* Committee was held on 24th ust. 1994.

cliu-se of paddy in Pwijab and Haryana

)5. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will Minister of FOOD be pleased to

i) whether it is a fact th t ths Food loration of India and the State agen-did not enter the markets ia Punjab Haryana for the purchase ol paddy le first fortnight of the current season cing huge losses to the fa'mers in : States;

j wehther it is also a fact that the i were forced to resort to distress sale aUdy in the markets;

I whether it is als a ofact that thei. «rs were forced to sell their more Basmati Paddy at the rate of Rs. 300 quintal insiead of Rs. 360, the support i fixed by the Central Government in absence of the Food Corporation of i and Government Agencies in the [1] of Haryana and Punjab; and.

) if so, whether Government propose jmpensale the loss incurred by such ers?

IE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE ISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP H RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The turn of paddy purchased in Punjub Haryana during the current Kharif veting Season 1994-95 as on 23-il-'M >f the order of 73.10 lakh tonnes and Iakh tannes respectively as com' 1 to 54.38 and 1.26 lakh tonnes ctively procured during the corres-ing period last year.

(c) and id) Since the prevailing tate* in Mandis in Punjab and Haryana for Basmati paddy are at levels much higher than Minimum Support Prices for paddy, Basmati paddy is not offered by farmers to p >. niexiient agencies for sale. As regards Non-basmati superfine paddy, in the initial stages of procurement there were some complaints related to quality of paddy. Permissible maximum percentage of admixture of lower variety of grains in superfine variety of paddy is 10 per cent i w specifications. There was,, however, pressure in some areas that the pro^ curement agencies should purchase superfine variety of paddy with even higher admixture of lower variety of grains. These prob'eras have since been sorted :>iit and the procurement operations are going ori smoothly.

Minimum support prVe of rice in Pmjaft

506, SHRI BHUPINDER SlNGH . MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the minimum support price for superfine, fine and coarse varieties of rice in Punjab;

fb) if so, whether Government are . aware that procurement agencies have failed to pay the fixed price for the above varieties to tlie farmers; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the erring officials and to compensate the formers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Minimum Support Price for common, fine and superfine varieties of paddy of fair average quality have been fixed at Rs. 340, Rs.. 360 and Rs. 380 per quinta ^respectively for the* Kharif Marketing season 1994-95.

fb) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.